The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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SECRECY FOR COAL OWNERS; PUBLICITY FOR COAL MINERS

Scranton, Pa., July 17.—The anthracite wage commission has ruled against considering exhibits presented by the workers in which the coal owners are charged with monopoly and profiteering.

The miners insisted that these practices have a direct relation to profits and wages. The commission holds that the exhibits are outside its jurisdiction.

The commission's ruling means that the miners' lives must be laid bare to the commission; their cost of living, how they spend their wages; what their wives and children wear must all be made public. The coal owners, however, are protected, and the claim that the public should be given full information on the coal industry is overlooked. There will be no publicity on the coal owners' methods.

The miners were prepared to show that half a dozen railroads control the anthracite mining industry and that through coal companies they "rig" the market. Other exhibits would show the relation of wages to cost of production, profits and prices; profits of coal companies; coal prices since 1913; freight rates and other transportation costs; operating and financial transaction of anthracite railroads; coal owners' combinations and cost of producing coal in the mines during March of this year. The coal owners made a bitter fight to keep this information out of the records. They even insisted that arguments on admitting the exhibits should be secret, but the commission made this concession to the miners, who battled for the widest publicity.

The miners pointed to the inconsistency of coal owners who talk about "protecting the public" and now refuse to inform the public of conditions that have a direct bearing on wages and the price of coal. In answer to the claim that the wage commission has no jurisdiction, the miners insisted that there was an implied jurisdiction, even duty.

"The commission," said the miners, "is not an ordinary arbitration board; it is a public body, charged with not only deciding issues as to wages and conditions of employment, but also with the development of all the facts bearing on the public interest."

LABOR ANALYZES DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Washington, July 17. — In a statement signed by President Gompers and Vice Presidents Valentine, Green and Woll, of the A. F. of L., this summary is made of the democratic national platform:

"It is but fair to say that the democratic platform marks a measure of progress not found in the platform of the republican party. In relation to labor's proposals, the planks written into the democratic platform more nearly approximate the desired declarations of human rights than do the planks found in the republican platform."

The four trade unionists were instructed by the A. F. of L. executive council to present labor's demands to the democratic national convention, following authorization, unanimously adopted by the last A. F. of L. convention, after it had received the report of the delegation of the A. F. of L. which appeared before the platform committee of the republican national convention.

The statement signed by Messrs. Gompers, Valentine, Green and Woll compares the democratic platform, section by section, with the demands of labor, as was done with the republican platform. The unionists make comment on those democratic planks that are of major interest to the workers.

On the injunction plank, this comment is made:

"While the language of the platform constitutes an indorsement of the labor provisions of the Clayton act, there is no specific condemnation of the abuse of the writ of injunction in labor disputes. However, failure of the platform to indorse the injunctions secured through the efforts of Attorney General Palmer in the miners' case may fairly be assumed to constitute repudiation of that action."

On the collective-bargaining and right-to-strike plank, the unionists make this comment:

"The platform provisions here set forth are specific in condemnation of compulsory arbitration in disputes in privately owned industry. There is a vagueness in the balance of the first two paragraphs. There is uncertainty as to what the platform means to convey in its reference to the obligation of the workers to the state and the proposal to find a substitute for the right of the workers to cease work when cessation of work is said to endanger the lives or health of the people.

"With regard to employes in government service, it will be noted that the platform declaration quoted at the outset of this analysis in response to the first of labor's demands sets forth the unqualified right to organization, collective bargaining and representation. The final paragraph of the declaration last quoted, however, implies methods in the settlement of disputes in government employment which can not be approved as a general statement of government policy."

On the co-operation plank, this comment is made:

"The platform paragraph on co-operation responds largely to labor's proposal. In relation to the second proposal the platform calls for publication of costs of production on farms, but does not call for publication of costs of manufactured articles nor costs caused by middlemen. The platform is silent as to the third proposal and offers no substitute dealing constructively with profiteering, but proposes the enactment and enforcement of such legislation as may be required to bring profiteers before the bar of criminal justice."

This comment is made on the railroad plank:

"The platform calls attention to the fact that defects exist in the Cummins-Esch law and pledges the democratic party to their rectification. Inasmuch as the railroads are now under private ownership and operation and their employes no longer in government employ, it will be observed in the third plank hereinbefore quoted the democratic platform declares that 'in private industrial disputes we are opposed to compulsory arbitration as a method plausible in theory but a failure in fact.'"

On the Mexican plank the unionists say that "the splendid spirit manifested in the first two paragraphs in the platform correspond entirely with the demands of labor with regard to Mexico and sets forth a policy of international morality in keeping with the highest and best concepts of Americanism."

The unionists report that the platform is silent on labor's demand for legislation excluding the products of convict labor from interstate commerce, for legislation that would prohibit federal judges from declaring acts of congress unconstitutional and for legislation providing for the election by the people of federal judges to terms not exceeding six years.

In the concluding paragraph of their statement, the unionists say:

"Labor of America is not partisan to any political party; it is partisan to principles, the principles of justice and freedom. It undertakes neither to dictate nor control the choice of the workers or the citizenship generally for which party or candidates they should vote, but it would be palpable dereliction of duty did we fail to place the facts before the voters of our country upon the records of both parties and their respective candidates for public office."

REACTION SHRIEKS "PARTISANSHIP" AS LABOR UNFOLDS BLACK RECORDS

Washington, July 17.—The labor records of reactionary candidates now being made public by the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee, haunt men who would pose as sympathetic to the workers.

Reaction's reply is to assume a virtuous pose and shriek "partisanship."

Labor's non-partisan political activity was never more intensive and this is a new problem for reaction which assumes that before citizens take political action they should await the edict of some superior person whose regard for humanity is only in the mind of a high-priced press agent.

Reaction has discovered that organized labor insists on doing its own thinking. These workers believe in democracy. They refuse to accept the wisdom of those placed on a pedestal by special interests. They want to know how candidates voted when in office and how they will vote if elected. With this information labor declares it is competent to act without the advice of others.

The A. F. of L. non-partisan committee is adhering to this long-established policy of the trade union movement. Records of senators and congressmen are made public, literature on the workers' legislative demands is issued and workers are urged to study these documents, question candidates and then vote as their conscience dictates, in the interests of social advance.

Reports to the A. F. of L. committee indicate growing enthusiasm and determination for this program. More than 500 city central bodies and more than 6,000 local trade unions have appointed committees to co-operate with the A. F. of L. committee.

There are many unions that have not reported to the A. F. of L. committee the names and addresses of their local committee. This was shown in the case of a southern city which has reported 20 committees and recently notified the national committee that at a recent conference of committees, 50 unions were represented.

Local committees are adopting a plan suggested by the national committee that congressional district conferences will make more effective the non-partisan policy.

PROFIT SHARING PLAN SHORN OF ITS GLORY

Boston, July 17.—Profit sharing with workers is shorn of its glory by the national industrial conference board, representing a score of manufacturers' associations. The board has conducted a nation-wide study of this question and allied plans, such as wage bonuses, stock selling to workers, etc.

Portions of the report sound like a trade union declaration. It says: "Profit sharing is no panacea. It is no solution of the wage problem." As far as establishing permanent satisfactory relations with their workers is concerned, employers are advised that their profit sharing efforts "might better be turned in other directions."

It is stated that but few of the many plans put in operation have survived a long period of time, and that "labor unions seem to be uniformly opposed to profit sharing, and difficulties are encountered particularly with unskilled and unintelligent workers."

"A study of the history of abandoned plans, moreover, strongly suggests the thought that plans now in operation, which have inspired enthusiastic testimonials of success, are only at one of the stages of the usual course of a profit sharing plan, that their real test has not come, and that eventually they may fall into disuse.

"In a few instances noted concerns employing profit sharing for principal employes contemplate extending the plan to cover the rank and file. But in the majority of cases such establishments either have already tried out profit sharing for all workers and had discontinued it as unsatisfactory, or felt strongly that it would be useless to extend the limited plan to include the rank and file."

SUFFRAGE ATTACK FAILS

Washington, July 17.—The District of Columbia supreme court has refused to enjoin Secretary of State Colby from proclaiming the suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. Charles S. Fairchild of New York, president of the American Constitutional association, and former secretary of the treasury in President Cleveland's cabinet, initiated the court proceedings. He charged that certain states ratified the suffrage amendment by irregular methods. In refusing the injunction the court referred to a recent decision by the District of Columbia court of appeals that it is not the business of the secretary of state to inquire into the methods of ratification, but to obey the law requiring him to issue a proclamation when a sufficient number of states ratified the amendment.

The suffrage foes announce they will carry the case to the United States supreme court if necessary.

Rutland, Va., July 17.—Governor Clement has refused to call a special session of the legislature to consider ratification of the equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. He declares that the federal constitution ,in its present form, threatens the foundation of popular government.

Baton Rouge, La., July 17.—At the closing session of the state legislature the law makers refused to indorse the suffrage amendment to the federal constitution.

LABOR SURPLUS IN WEST.

Washington, July 17.—A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has received this telegram from the executive board of the central labor union, San Pedro, Cal.:

"We desire to refute statements issued from southern California relative to a shortage of labor here. A recent report of the labor bureau bears out our contention. Thousands of men are coming into this district only to find no employment, high living and no housing. Ship yards in this vicinity are concluding government work and laying off men. Please notify all organizations and give this matter as much publicity as possible in your trade papers and to Hog island (ship yard) men."

MILLS CLOSE DOWN.

Boston, July 17.—With mills of the American Woolen company closing down throughout New England, these workers may well question the sincerity of people who advised them that the reason for high prices is because "labor refuses to do an honest day's work."

It is stated that merchants are cancelling orders because people refuse to buy, but there is no indication that price reductions are favored to release goods stored mountain high in these factories.

OPERATORS LOCKED OUT.

Tacoma, Wash., July 17.—Several moving picture theater managers have locked out their picture operators who are asking for a shorter work day.

CAR MEN TRICKED.

Fresno, Cal., July 17.—Street car men called off their strike and then went back on when the company gave notice that some of these employes would be paid the old rate.

BLOCK FREE SPEECH; AID TO STEEL TRUST

Pittsburg, Pa., July 17.—In upholding the conviction of six organized workers for attempting to hold a trade union meeting in Duquesne, last May, without a permit, Judge Kennedy of the common pleas court has strengthened the steel trust in its fight against the workers in western Pennsylvania.

Duquesne is located a few miles from this city. It is a regulation steel town. No hall can be rented for trade union purposes and public meetings are prohibited without the consent of the mayor who, in this case, is a brother of a mill official. Last spring the trade unionists requested Mayor Crawford to issue them a permit to hold a trade union meeting. The letter was not answered. The workers then announced that a meeting would be held. When each of the six men started to speak they were arrested because they had no permit. They refused to pay a fine of $100 each and appealed the case to the common pleas court.

In upholding the decision Judge Kennedy attempted to lull protests against free speech denial by lurid pictures of possible rioting if the unionists were not arrested.

"It is true," said Judge Kennedy, "that the mayor might have thrown a cordon of police around the meeting and permitted it to proceed, but the presence of police at such a time is not always an assurance of peace, and if the mayor in his judgment deemed that impractical or unsafe —and I feel that the safer way was to forbid the meeting—how can his actions, viewed in the broad sense, be an infraction of the rights of the people?"

Duquesne is filled with company thugs and gun men and instead of standing for 100 per cent Americanism, and in a ringing decision, assure every citizen of his rights, and call on Duquesne officials to protect those rights, Judge Kennedy takes the weak position that the gun men were liable to start trouble—to violate the law—and to avoid this condition free speech for the workers must be denied.

LOW WAGES CAUSE DEATH.

Washington, July 17. — In calling attention to the relation of low wages to infant mortality, the United States children's bureau states that the "summer peak" of infant deaths is now beginning.

In Manchester, N. H., more babies died from gastro-intestinal diseases than from any other cause, the rate being 63 per 1,000 babies born alive. In August more deaths occurred from these diseases than occurred in any other month from all causes combined. Two-thirds of the Manchester babies were born to foreign-born mothers, two-fifths to mothers who could not speak English, and over one-sixth to illiterate mothers. Nearly one-half of them were in families where the father's earnings totaled less than $650 a year, and over two-fifths were to mothers who were gainfully employed during the year following the baby's birth.

In Johnstown, Pa.; Waterbury, Conn., and New Bedford, Mass., where similar conditions prevailed, the infant mortality rates for diseases of the digestive system were 32, 41 and 48, respectively.

These reports, says the children's bureau, emphasize the importance of family income, better domestic and municipal sanitation, and the need of teaching mothers how to take care of babies.

LITTLE PURE WOOL USED.

Chicago, July 17. — In its campaign against the use of shoddy in clothing, the national sheep and wool bureau of America states that last year this country used approximately three pounds of scoured wool per inhabitant. To meet the people's demand for virgin wool about 12 pounds of scoured wool should be marketed. The difference between the three pounds and the 12 pounds is met by manufacturers who spin and respin old clothes and rags, in some instances eight times, with just enough virgin wool to hold them together. These are marketed as "all wool" while store houses are bursting with virgin wool.

The national sheep and wool bureau of America is urging the passage of the French-Capper "truth-in-fabric" bill, now pending in congress, which would make it compulsory for manufacturers to label their shoddy goods.

FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH.

Chicago, July 17.—The local federation of labor has instructed its executive committee to call a meeting for the purpose of starting a free speech agitation in South Chicago. The unionists propose to establish American rights in that district.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Charlotte, N. C., July 17.—The annual convention of the North Carolina state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Monday, August 9.

RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK.

San Francisco, Cal., July 17.—Through arbitration the wage rate of the Retail Delivery Drivers' union was increased $3 a week.

THUG ARMIES A MENACE.

Springfield, Ill., July 17.—"A military police force has always been the willing tool of autocracy," writes John Havey, of the Illinois Constables' association, to John Walker, president of the Illinois state federation of labor.

"Even more dangerous to this nation than a military police is that irresponsible guerilla army of mercenaries that is being organized in every large city in the country by private detective agencies, employers' associations and kindred bodies, who are usurping the police power of the state and building up a body of strikebreakers, composed of murderers, robbers, pimps and sluggers.

"Uniform and impartial law enforcement, police protection that will guard the home, family and property of Jeff Jones, the teamster, as carefully as it does the home of J. Smith Jones, the banker, should be the aim of the state in developing its police power. The elected and bonded county constable can, with his wide police authority, centralize, co-ordinate, make responsible and efficient all the police activites of the county and be a constant defense for the democratic institutions of the state."

ROYAL MEEKER RESIGNS.

Washington, July 17.—Dr. Royal Meeker, commissioner United States bureau of labor statistics, has resigned to accept the position of editor-in-chief of the monthly bulletin of the international labor office of the league of nations, published at Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Meeker reorganized cost of living studies on the practical basis of the family budget, or the market basket, so that dry statistics could be easily understood. His war-time studies of wages and living costs were accepted as authentic and his findings were of value to the organized workers in arbitration proceedings.

This important work is ignored by congress, which has failed to appropriate sufficient funds to maintain the efficiency of this department. The same is true of the bureau of conciliation of the department of labor. Both of these bureaus have been compelled to release employes engaged in most important work.

Ethelbert Stewart, assistant chief of the bureau of labor statistics, succeeds Dr. Meeker. The new commissioner has been connected with the government for over 30 years in various economic capacities. Prior to that time he was a newspaper man. He is well known to trade unionists as a conciliator in industrial disputes.

TWO MENACES TO PROGRESS.

Washington, July 17.—More than 17,000 mothers die yearly from causes incident to child bearing, and ill-health is suffered by a vast number of others from the same cause, reports the United States children's bureau.

"These deaths and disabilities are now known to be needless in large measure, and among women who can command adequate care their proportions are already reduced. Over 200,000 babies less than a year old die annually. These infant deaths are controllable almost without exception. Poverty is a constant condition of the highest infant mortality rates, and the rates steadily improve as income increases to a good living standard.

"The studies show that poverty and ignorance are yoke fellows and that civic responsibility for decent conditions of living is only beginning to reach an expression which can help to ease the burden."

LABOR'S RANKS INTACT.

Spokane, June 17.—Labor has withstood assaults by non-union employers in this state, according to the report of officers of the state federation of labor to the annual convention.

"The injury done to organized labor," says the report, "has been slight in comparison to that suffered by the city and community as a whole. Most of the strikes that have occurred in this state are the direct result of the campaign that has been organized by the associated industries for the purpose of breaking down the trade union movement of our state, and if the employers generally had been left free to function without interference by this body a satisfactory agreement, in most cases, would have been effected and a great deal of injury to the community that has resulted would have been avoided."

HARVESTERS SET RECORD.

Washington, July 17.—A land army of 100,000 farm workers, recruited and organized by the department of agriculture, is moving northwest across the western wheat belt, harvesting the nation's grain crops in better time than in many years, according to reports received by the department.

RAG SORTERS UNITE.

Tacoma, Wash., July 17.—The wide field covered by the A. F. of L. is shown by the organization of rag sorters in this city.

Long Hour Working Day Develops Shirking

Washington, July 17.—Low speed, wasted time and limited output are in large part the workers' automatic defense against exhaustion and the overstrain of excessive hours of labor, says the United States public health service in a survey on the eight-hour and 10-hour work day systems.

This restriction of output can not be attributed to union practice, says the report, which states that in the 10-hour plant investigated there were few union workers. The survey expresses the thought that the slowing down process may also be caused by the workers' fear that if they exceed the customary output to any extent piece rates will be cut, so they will have to work harder for the same or a smaller return. This, however, is not the important reason.

"The fundamental cause for limitation of output lies deeper," it is stated. "No group of workers could continue, without physical disaster, to work at full capacity for a stretch of 12 hours at night or 10 hours in the day time, not to mention the three hours overtime irregularly worked at the 10-hour plant."

The investigators found in the 10-hour plant, with its unorganized employes, that in many of the operations there seemed to be a tacit acceptance of some fixed quantity as a suitable output for the day, and this was rarely exceeded. If, however, some accidental delay or interruption made it likely that the worker, producing at his accustomed rate, would not reach this quantity, he could and did work at a much faster rate until he felt assured of his output.

It is not suggested that this spurt could have been maintained throughout the day, but there was considerable ground for believing that the actual output was decidedly below the potential output.

"At the eight-hour plant there was little, if any, evidence of this stereotyping of output," says the report.

"At the eight-hour plant 90 per cent of average power was maintained until six minutes, on the average, before the close of work; at the 10-hour plant more than 21.5 minutes before the close of work the percentage of average power had dropped below 90. In other words, work continued at the eight-hour plant practically under full power until six minutes before the end of the shift; at the other factory power began to decline three and one-half times as long before closing time—at exactly 5:30 p. m., when the investigators began afternoon readings, only 87 per cent of average power was in use in the entire building."

Both the eight-hour and the 10-hour plants that were investigated were operated on the piece work system.

"BLACK COATS" AWAKE.

London, England, July 17.—More than 2,000 bank clerks have organized the bank officers' guild and are protesting against miserable wages and unreasonable restrictions that include denial of the right to marry until they have reached a certain grade. Under this ruling of the banks an employe cannot marry until about 35 years old. The bank clerks and similar employes are being aided by organized labor, which refers to them as "black coats."

The British Bankers' association has refused a request to form a Whitley council to adjust matters. These councils are the result of a commission appointed by Prime Minister Asquith in October, 1916, "to make and consider suggestions for securing a permanent improvement in the relations between employers and workmen." The chairman of the committee was Hon. J. H. Whitley, member of parliament.

A committee composed of employed, with Hon. J. Whitley, member of parliament, chairman, recommended plans that would make intercourse between employers and workers possible. The plan is being adopted in industries that are not thoroughly organized. In organized industry the trade unions are functioning.

ANTI-HIGH RENT ACTS VOID.

Trenton, N. J., July 17.—The state supreme court has set aside three resolutions adopted by Jersey City authorities under which that municipality appropriated money to aid dispossessed tenants in suits against landlords. Justice Swayze ruled that it is a perversion of the principles of law to use the power and money of a municipality for the protection of one class of citizens at the expense of the other, and that the city's advancement of money to defend private litigants in suits was a violation of the constitution.

The resolutions were passed to aid poor tenants who were ousted from their homes by unscrupulous landlords when they failed to pay exorbitant rents.

U. S. EMPLOYES UNITING.

Washington, July 17.—An organizing drive for 100,000 members has been started by the National Federation of Federal Employes, under direction of the officers of that union. This effort will include a nation-wide educational campaign to convince congress that efficient public service depends upon justice to government workers.

Federal employes are called upon to interest non-affiliated government employes who are eligible to this union and the various locals are urged through speakers at meetings and by communications of various sorts, to acquaint their localities of the need of reclassification in the public service if morale and efficiency are to be maintained.

WANT PALMER GRILLED.

Chicago, July 17.—To secure aid for his presidential aspirations, Attorney General Palmer blocked prosecution of persons who defrauded the government and pardoned others who have political influence, according to William Armstrong, attorney of this city.

The attorney has asked the United States senate committee that is investigating pre-convention campaign expenditures to "delve thoroughly into the campaign of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer."

LAUNDRY WORKERS WIN.

Visalia, Cal., July 17.—Laundry workers have broken a lockout by employers and are again at work.

CO-OPS. STRONG IN RUSSIA.

Washington, July 17.—More than 20,000,000 persons, representing a population of 100,000,000, are members of the Russian co-operative societies, according to a report issued by the department of commerce. The report describes in detail the co-operatives, tells what they are, how they are organized and supported, what commodities they handle, what have been their relations with the different governments in Russia and how they attained a success which won them recognition from the supreme council of the allies.

The report states that the Russian co-operative movement celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1915, and shows that the recent growth of the movement has been phenomenal. In 1912 there were in Russia 15,083 co-operative societies, with a membership of 5,760,000 householders. The first of last year the number of societies had increased to 50,000, with a membership of 20,000,000 householders. The total capital of these societies was 220,000,000 rubles in 1918.

Hand in hand with this growth there took place important internal consolidations. Powerful central organizations were built up, dealing not only with the consumption, production and distribution of commodities, but with finance and transportation as well. An all-Russian council of co-operative congress was recently created to co-ordinate the work of all branches of the movement.

OIL TRUST NEVER SLEEPS.

New York, July 17.—Standard oil control of oil production makes it possible for that trust to destroy any law that fixes the price of gas, said attorneys representing this city in court proceedings involving the price of gas. The attorneys told Federal Judge Hand that gas oil, a by-product of crude oil, was not used until recently, when the Standard oil company went into the gas business. An increase of a cent a gallon for gas oil, it was stated, means an increase of 4 cents per thousand cubic feet in the cost of making gas and on up in the same proportion.

Evidence was submitted showing that William Rockefeller is a member of the executive committee and director of the Consolidated Gas company, and that he attended meetings when contracts for gas oil were made. The company buys all its gas oil from Standard oil.

150 PER CENT NOT GOUGING.

Spokane, July 17.—A 150 per cent profit is not unlawful, according to a federal grand jury, which has found a department store not guilty of profiteering. The judge assisted the jury in arriving at this decision by his ruling that the store has the right to consider present market values in pricing goods that were bought at a rate lower than the present market prices.

UNIONS WARNED OF ANTIS.

Philadelphia, July 17.—The central labor union has appointed a committee to assist its various affiliates in combatting the non-union shop movement that has for its purpose the establishment of individual bargaining with workers. These employers are not adverse to trade unions if they are permitted to deal with workers as individuals.

UNION SHOP FOR BRICKIES.

Edmonton, Alberta, July 17.—The Bricklayers' union has secured an agreement which calls for the union shop, a 44-hour week and $1.25 an hour.

UNIONIST NAILS LIBEL.

Chicago, July 17.—The shocking charge by unscrupulous anti-trade unionists that during the milk wagon drivers' strike in this city, last year, "100 babies were dying every day" has been proven false by Victor A. Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois state federation of labor.

This charge was made at hearings held by the state constitutional convention and has been given wide publicity by the workers' foes. Secretary Olander wrote to John Dill Robertson, commissioner of health of this city, for the 1919 figures on child mortality. The trade unionist asked:

"Was there any marked increase of infant mortality during the year 1919? If so, when did this increase occur and what were its causes?"

In forwarding the statistics, the commissioner of health said:

"You will note that instead of an increase in infant mortality, there was a very material decrease last year, as compared with 1918. In the case of deaths under one year of age the number dropped from 6,636 to 5,739. From one to four years inclusive, the number dropped from 4,146 to 2,776."

In commenting on this information, Secretary Olander says:

"The facts are that during the strike babies, invalids and hospitals received first consideration from the members of the Milk Wagon Drivers' union and little or no consideration from the employers. The milk drivers offered to work without pay in delivering milk to points where it was really needed. But the employers declined to supply the wagons."

COMMON SENSE NEEDED.

New York, July 17.—"Pennsylvania's need is common sense" says the New York World in discussing the approval by a Pittsburg court of the conviction of six trade unionists who were fined in Duquesne for holding a meeting without a permit.

"The Duquesne officers simply sewed up the town," says the World editor. "The workmen could not hire a hall and when they tried to hold a street meeting their organizers were arrested. Technically guilty, of course; but it was a foolish administration of the law which drove them to a defiance with which good men in better managed states will sympathize.

"What Pennsylvania, and West Virginia as well, have got by oppressive use of laws meant for public protection is simply a bad reputation and an increase of dissatisfaction.

"Pennsylvania laws may need some trimming and modernization. Much more do Pennsylvania officials need common fairness and common sense."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Edmonton, Alberta, July 17.—Although its agreement does not expire until next October, the Typographical union has negotiated a new wage scale of $48 a week for night work and $45 for day work.

Portland, Ore., July 17.—The national arbitration board maintained by the International Typographical union and the National Publishers' association has raised wages of local newspaper printers $3 a week for day men and $1.50 a week for night men. The scale is now $48 for day work and $51 for night work and dates back to the first of the year. A local arbitration board had awarded day men 25 cents a day, but nothing to the night men. The union appealed this award to the national board.

SUES MUSICIANS' UNION.

Norwich, Conn., July 17.—Organized musicians refuse to work for the Strand theater because of non-union conditions and the manager asks for an injunction and $30,000 damages. Several musicians named in the suit have had their real estate and bank accounts attached.

Chicago, July 17.—A 58 per cent wage increase has been secured by organized musicians employed in the first class theaters of this city.

PACKERS INDICTED.

Boston, July 17.—A federal grand jury has indicted Swift and Armour, meat packers, and two lesser concerns, on the charge of profiteering. The Swift company is charged with receiving 17 cents a pound for beef which cost 10½ cents. The Armour company is charged with selling New Zealand lamb for 25½ cents a pound which cost a fraction over 9 cents a pound.

BARBERS JOIN UNION.

Indianapolis, July 17.—Recent charters have been issued by the Journeymen Barbers' International union to locals in Claremore, Okla.; and LaGrange and Alexandria, Ga.

MORE SWITCHMEN UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 17.—The Switchmen's Union of North America has issued charters to locals in Havre, Mont.; Minot, Wash., and Grand Forks, N. D.

WAGE LOSS IS "ROT;" PUBLIC DON'T PROTECT

New York, July 17.—"If the workers depended on the public alone, they would rarely, if ever, make any progress, for the fundamental reason that the public is wholly selfish," says the National Civic Federation Review. It is declared that much of statistics on strike losses "is pure and unadulterated rot."

"The public does not want to be inconvenienced," says this publication. "In a strike on a street railroad the public does the walking and the swearing. It makes no difference how long may be the hours the men work or how small may be their pay. 'If they don't like their jobs,' the public generally says, 'they should get others, but, under no circumstances make us walk.' How long would it have taken the public to wake up and organize to force 'the bloated coal barons' to give shorter hours and increases in the pitifully low wages of the anthracite coal miners in 1902?

"In regard to the appalling cost to the wage earners, there is another side to that question. The big headline figures about the losses of hundreds of millions of dollars on account of millions of days' wages being lost are frequently great fallacies. In some cases not a cent is lost and the increases in wages is a clear gain. The 1910 anthracite strike of six weeks only changed the date of the annual shut down of the miners. Just as much coal was produced for the year, but the miners got more for the portion mined after the strike. The headline statisticians can always scare the public by multiplying days by the wage rates, but no headliner has ever pointed out another startling fact, and that is that in any normal year there are more days of labor lost on any three of the seven national holidays than in all the strikes of that year. Think of the three billion days lost on Sundays and Saturday afternoons, and yet nobody counts that a loss, but a gain.

"It is not meant by this that there is not unnecessary loss, suffering, injustice and abuse of power many times by the unions, but it does mean that a good deal of the statistics put out on the subject is pure and adulterated rot."

WORRY FOR CANDIDATES.

Allentown, Pa., July 17.—"The producers," says the Pennsylvania Labor Herald, "are organizing an effective non-partisan campaign to express their views upon the national election, and in many districts congressmen who are seeking reelection find that they are going to have the hardest kind of up-hill hauling to gain the ear of their constituents.

"The old shibboleth of party fealty has lost its punch, and this year, as never before, voters will vote their convictions and forget their political labels. It is of slight significance whether a candidate is a democrat or a republican or what-not, but it is supremely important whether he is a reactionary or a forward-looking citizen, with well defined views on pertinent political issues and a fair conception of the task that is to be confronted by the nation and a right solution evolved before we can expect to have peace and tranquility and due recognition of the rights of those who produce as well as those who consume."

MORE FOR MEN'S SUITS

New York, July 17.—"If retailers figure on the same profit they are now getting, the prices of men's clothing will increase just 15 per cent," said Harry Simons, chairman of the American Clothing Designers' association in an interview published in a local paper.

In the meantime the American Woolen company, known as the "trust," is shutting down some of its mills, operating others on short time and prices paid to farmers for their wool has dropped from $1 a pound last year to 30 and 40 cents.

DAYTON STRIKE ENDS.

Dayton, Ohio, July 17.—A 16-days' street car strike has ended by the men's wage demand being referred to arbitration with a temporary agreement that rates shall be 58, 60 and 62 cents an hour, according to length of service. A nine-hour day is provided, with time and one-half for overtime. Future differences will be settled by arbitration. The temporary increase raises rates 12 cents an hour and the workers are hopeful that this will be advanced by the arbitration board.

THEY LIKE NON-UNIONISM.

Yakima, Wash., July 17.—The reason why employers in this place are shouting for the "American" plan and other non-union systems is shown in the announcement that wage rates here are around the $4 mark.

TO ELECTRIFY RAILROADS.

New York, July 17.—To electrify its government-owned railroads the government of Switzerland has sold bonds in the amount of $[illegible] in this country. The Swiss will use water power to generate electricity.

U. S. WORKS COUNCIL IS COMPANY "UNION"

Rock Island, Ill., July 17.—The arsenal federation, consisting of representatives of organized workers employed at the government's arsenal in this city, has voted to withdraw all connection from the arsenal works council. The federation recommends that all trade unionists adopt this policy. The works council was formed several months ago for the alleged purpose of adjusting grievances and stimulating production. At that time the organized workers gave notice that they would assist if a neutral position was taken on trade unionism. A different policy was gradually adopted, however, and matters reached a climax when two machinists were laid off during a reduction of the force. These machinists have been employed six and 14 years, respectively. They were active in the works council and were assigned to another department by the arsenal management that they could have more time to devote to this movement. The management discovered, however, that the machinists insisted that the works council should not assume trade union functions. Later they were returned to their old department and then laid off because, they were told, their efficiency had been lowered.

N. P. Alifas, president of machinists' district No. 44, which has jurisdiction over government employed machinists, came to this city for the purpose of adjusting the matter, but Col. Jordan, arsenal commandant, refused to recognize Alifas in the trade unionist's official capacity.

The unionists show that these machinists have led the efficiency list for years. They deny that men can maintain this record and lose it in such a short time, and they insist that even if the non-efficiency charge were true the machinists should not suffer for the action of the management, who is charged with having more interest in weakening trade unionism, through its work council, than in the efficiency of employes.

The unionists now look upon this works council as the regulation company "union." It has been widely proclaimed as "industrial democracy" by uplifters and theorists who favor any plan to lessen discord in industry except recognition of the workers' right to bargain collectively and to manage their own affairs.

ANTI-UNIONISTS ACTIVE.

Washington, July 17.—"The so-called 'open' shop campaign has been replaced, especially in the west and middle west, by the so-called 'American' plan. It is nothing new," said A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison in making public information received at A. F. of L. headquarters on the money being contributed by employers for anti-trade union purposes.

"Among certain employing interests," said the unionist, "there is a stronger opposition to organized labor since the time of the late David I. Parry, president of the National Manufacturers' association, and the late Charles Post, head of the citizens' alliance. Both of these movements have been discredited, but their opposition to organized labor remains.

"As the trade union movement rests on the theory of collective bargaining the issue is a clear-cut contest between trade unionism and those employers who insist upon the absolute right to set hours, wages and working conditions of their employes."

GIRLS PAID LOW WAGE.

Philippi, W. Va., July 17.—Trade unionists in this city want to enter the Hall woolen mills for first prize in the bourbon class. Girls employed at this plant have been working 12 hours at night for $2.48 and $2.79, if there was no accident to their machines. They averaged $9 a week for day work.

The girls organized under charter issued by the United Textile Workers. When the management heard of this proceeding he ordered the girls to cease that activity, under penalty of discharge. The girls refused to obey and the sheriff was asked to arrest the disobedient employes.

Coal miners and other trade unionists pledged their support to the locked-out workers at a large mass meeting.

ICE HANDLERS GAIN.

Toledo, Ohio, July 17.—The Ice Handlers' union has won a wage increase of $3 a week through arbitration proceedings. The neutral arbitrator ruled that the books of the companies show that the advanced rate can be met without increasing the cost of ice to the public. This latter part of the award passes the understanding of the companies who are asking where the arbitrator finds such ideas.

PIPE FITTERS OUT.

Wilmington, N. C., July 17.—Marine pipe fitters and helpers employed at the Carolina ship yard have suspended work to enforce a wage increase of [illegible] cents an hour. The yards are operated by the George A. Fuller company.